

**August 2, 2010**

*Recovery Bill Project Includes Use of Innovative, Low-Cost Safety Enhancements*

**HERKIMER, NY**--New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Regional Director Michael A. Shamma was joined this morning by Congressman Michael Arcuri to mark the recent completion of a pavement rehabilitation project along State Route 5S in Herkimer County.

In addition to resurfacing the pavement, the project included installation of a Centerline Audible Roadway Delineator (CARD), commonly referred to as a centerline rumble strip, between the two lanes of traffic. This is one of the first applications of a centerline rumble strip in New York State.

The construction contract for this project was awarded to Hansen Aggregates New York, Inc. of Jamesville, and was funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Of the \$1.1 billion New York State received for highway and bridge projects under ARRA, a total investment of \$25 million in economic recovery funding has been received for projects in Mohawk Valley communities.

"This project presented a unique opportunity to accomplish several goals - improve the pavement condition of a major corridor in the Mohawk Valley, bring jobs to the community and respond to community concerns about the safety of this route with a low cost, innovative solution," **said Regional Director Michael A. Shamma**. "I thank Governor David Paterson for certifying this important infrastructure project and our Congressional Delegation for bringing critical economic-recovery funding to New York State."

"The work here on Route 5S is a perfect example of how the Recovery Bill is delivering results for Upstate New York," **said Congressman Michael Arcuri, who is a member of House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**. "We're putting people back to work by making critical improvements to our aging infrastructure. Additionally, the inclusion of a centerline rumble strip will dramatically increase the safety of this stretch of highway for area motorists."

For more than 10 years, NYSDOT has utilized rumble strips on the shoulder of freeways. The installation of shoulder rumble strips produced significant reductions in freeway run-off-the-road injuries and fatalities, averaging around a 60% reduction in New York State. Anticipating that centerline rumble strips will help reduce crossover accidents, NYSDOT piloted their installation in the Hornell and Buffalo areas, with positive results.

The State Route 5S location is ideally suited to the installation of the CARDS. This section meets the criteria for safety improvement based on the length of the section, the speed limit, the volume of traffic, the roadway width and the accident history. In addition, this is a limited access highway with no pedestrian or bicycle access.

Work began on the State Route 5S project in May, and was completed last month. The \$1.3 million contract included 1.5 miles of resurfaced paving on State Route 5S, as well as three miles of State Route 28 in the town of Russia and 0.5 miles of State Route 5S/28 in the village of Mohawk.

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